

First Preliminary Amendment

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4).

Dated: December 29, 2009

Electronic Signature for Kristin L. Murphy: /Kristin L. Murphy/

Docket No.: 66967-0032
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Nestor R. Arrieta et al.

Application No.: 10/562,430

Confirmation No.: 3873

Filed: October 2, 2004

Art Unit: 3679

For: OUTER JOINT PART WITH SUPPORTING
DISC

Examiner: G. J. Binda

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AFTER APPEAL FILED WITH
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Decision on Appeal issued on October 29, 2009 maintaining the rejections of claims 17-31 set forth in the Final Office Action dated February 11, 2008, and in view of the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.